

# Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

## Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Student (at school, college or university)

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

## Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

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Fully Supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Period poverty can have a serious effect on people experiencing menstruation. It can take them away from school or work and can be personally degrading having to get through a cycle without and products to help you through.

## Page 8: Universal provision of sanitary products

Q2. Do you think a universal, card-based system (modelled on the c-card system for free condoms) would be an effective means of providing sanitary products for free to those who need them?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

People who need these products but can't afford them will have one less worry if they know they can get what they need from school/university/a participating centre. It would be a weight off their shoulders and they would no longer have to stress about not being able to get into work/school because of something as natural as a period.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

People who need free sanitary products due to low income obviously need unlimited access to ensure they have enough to get them through a cycle as they vary from person to person. People not on low incomes may still need sanitary products on short notice but I don't believe they require a card to get them as they could buy what they need or borrow something off of someone as it would most likely be a one-off situation whilst people on low incomes would require all of their sanitary products to come from their card.

Q4. Do you have a view on which locations would be most suitable for dispensing free sanitary products (e.g. GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health clinics)?

Schools  
Universities  
GP Surgeries/Pharmacies/Health Clinics

Mostly it would depend on the area. Not every doctor's office would necessarily need to participate depending on their proximity to other similar locations.

## Page 11: Schools, colleges and universities

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Perhaps not from toilet dispensers but a system that seems to be working is dispensing them through nurses' offices in the school so if someone needed a pad/tampon on short notice they could go to their office and take one.

**Page 12: Personal experience (questions 6 and 7 are for individual respondents only)**

Q6. Have you ever struggled to access or afford sanitary products during menstruation? (e.g. financial barriers, unexpected circumstances, health issues)

No

**Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.**

My school provides free sanitary products through the school nurse's office. If you go to them they will give you pads or tampons.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

On the rare occasion I forgot a pad or my cycle was very early I would try and get a pad from someone I knew or from the school office. I don't think that particularly deserves a card for free products as I could quite easily acquire products through other means.

**Page 14: Financial implications**

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>	X					
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>		X				
<b>(c) Businesses</b>			X			

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

(including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)						
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)				X		

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

This initiative would cost the gov. quite a lot (I think) especially in the public sector/welfare as they would have to organise the initiative throughout the country. I'm guessing that colleges and universities participating in the scheme would be expected to buy the sanitary products that they provide thus increasing their spending. I feel that suppliers of sanitary products wouldn't be majorly affected as they would still be paid for the products being used. Consumers of sanitary products would not have to pay for sanitary products anymore, reducing their overall spending.

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

I'm not a business expert so this is probably a stretch but perhaps the gov. could work with like-minded companies/businesses/groups that would be willing to take a cost load for certain aspects of the set-up.

Have participating centres locate all of/a majority of their sanitary products themselves i.e. buying them in themselves, asking for donations.

Donations (of money or products) wherever possible.

## Page 16: Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It would allow people menstruating to get more out of their job/education therefore having a positive effect on gender equality.

Q11. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

Making the card assignments as anonymous as possible so that people relying on them for sanitary products are not targeted for their low income.

## Page 18: Sustainability

Q12. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

There are lots of factors to be considered. It will probably cost quite a lot but I don't believe it could be enough to ruin the country financially. Environmentally, bio-degradable products could be prioritised but this may have a negative effect on the cost. I believe the only significant social change it will have is positive.

## Page 19: General

Q13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

I think this is a brilliant proposal and I really hope action is taken towards getting this bill passed.